



INTEGRATED

F A I T H P R O J E C T

Facilitator Guide



Building Christian military leaders, families, fellowships...***for a lifetime***

Welcome to the Integrated Faith Project

The ***IF Project*** is OCF's foundational teaching on integrating faith in Christ in personal transformation, family, profession, and community relationships to encourage and equip members to serve "on-mission" for Him. The ***IF Project*** is meant for all OCF members, as well as any believer that wishes to live the military life God purposed for us, that is in a coherent and integrated manner.

The OCF Vision

The military community positively impacted through Christ-like leaders

The OCF Mission

OCF engages military leaders in Biblical fellowship and growth to equip them for Christ-like service at the intersection of faith, family, and profession.



Getting Started

1. General. The OCF mission is, “OCF engages military leaders in Biblical fellowship and growth to equip them for Christ-like service at the intersection of faith, family and profession.” The IF Project is OCF’s framework for integrating faith in Christ in personal transformation, family, profession, and community relationships. It is designed to encourage and equip members to serve “on-mission” for Him.

These sessions provide the OCF Biblical framework for the Integration of faith in all aspects of military life. As a framework, they will not include specific methods and means, but rather the principles and major steps of integrating faith comprehensively. These sessions are meant to be built upon in group and personal study to grow in fruitful service to Christ as a member of the military society.

2. Process. Each session is designed to be 75 to 90 minutes in length to include 15 to 20 minutes of presentation with the balance of the time for discussion. The process for preparing, facilitating, and encouraging follow up is:

Facilitator Preparation.

- Preview the presentation and study the presentation outline to allow for responding to questions and to guide the discussion. The facilitator’s personal preparation in the context and nuances of the message is essential.
- Prepare to start with a very brief introduction before showing the presentation. Keep the introduction and presentation time to 20 minutes or less. The best learning will be guided “discovery” learning as participants wrestle with the content through discussion and

further study.

- From the participant guide, Identify the discussion questions that best reinforce the main point of each lesson. If you are time-challenged in discussion, you may want to hit the most important points first. Feel free to craft your own discussion questions based on your knowledge of the group you are facilitating.
- The application questions are critical. Prepare to challenge participants to a tangible response to issues covered during the session.
- Pray. The IF Project team has sought God in prayer in developing the material, but the facilitator’s connection with the Spirit is absolutely essential to tune into His will, wisdom, and enabling for your unique session.

Facilitating the Session.

- Start with a very brief introduction of the session topic and explain that it will be followed up by small group discussion session of approximately 55 to 70 minutes
- Show the presentation
- At the end of the presentation, lead discussion groups through the discussion and application questions. Ideally, the groups should be ten people or less to enable open and candid discussion. Reminder – an application action should always be a part of the session.
- Keep to the topic; avoid veering off to extraneous issues. However,

in closing the session, point out methods of going further in the topic through OCF web-based resources, personal study or discussion, and study with others. That may include a mentor, accountability partner, or friends.

The IF Project presumes those engaging it have trusted in Christ through faith. However, some may come who are still seekers. In that case be prepared to respond should they be convicted of their need for Christ (1 Pet. 3:15).

We welcome your comments on process and content to help us

fully field the most fruitful program possible. A feedback form is located online at ocfusa.org/ifproject/feedback, or you can send an email to IFP@ocfusa.org.

We invite you to take this program and present it to others, both OCF members and anyone else interested in living a coherent life for Christ in the military.

IF Project Outline

Start...

Foundation Session

Purpose: Cast a vision for integrated living and convince participant that we can do it.

Main Point: Jesus is the Model, Caller, and One who empowers

Next...

Personal Transformation Session

Purpose: Cast a vision for transformation and provide a guide for pursuing it.

Main Point: We must do business with God to become Christ-like.

Then complete in any order...

Family Session

Purpose: Cast a vision, provide principles for serving Christ in and through the family.

Main Point: God employs the faith-filled family, even though flawed, as His vessel in the Gospel.

Profession Session

Purpose: Cast a vision and provide principles for serving in faith.

Main Point: Faith should and can be effectively integrated in our profession.

Community & Relationships Session

Purpose: Cast a vision and provide principles in engaging the community in which we live.

Main Point: We are called to live our faith in community and relationships in the manner and power of Christ.



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**View or download the
presentation for this session at
ocfusa.org/ifproject**

Facilitator Guidance for the Foundation Session

The foundation session of the IF Project is intended to cast a vision for integrated living and to encourage participants in living out their faith joyfully and fruitfully. The main point is that Jesus is the model for integrated living, the One who calls us to integrated living, and the One who empowers us to live it. The key passage is from Jesus' words in John 17:18, "As you (Father) have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world."

Participant Guide | Foundation Session

Notes from the Presentation

Introduction

- “Balancing” work, family, and spiritual growth can be challenging
- Christ-followers find it challenging to allow Christ to govern all parts of life
- We are pulled in many directions
- Questions we ask ourselves:
 - Who am I becoming? What is God’s plan for me?
 - Where is my faith operative in my life? Where is it producing fruit?
- We need a model to follow—and we have one. It is Jesus.

Jesus is our model

- He was:
 - Fully God and fully man
 - Physical yet spiritual
 - Emotional yet rational
 - Caring yet firm
 - Graceful yet disciplined
 - Strong yet gentle
 - Powerful yet humble

- Jesus integrated His life because He had a single point of focus (John 4:34)
- Jesus modeled His single focus in both the cosmic—and the smaller things of life.

Four components of faith-filled, integrating living are:

- Component 1. Decide on your single point of focus. Jesus decided and reported on His accomplishment before His death. (John 17:4). And then gave us the call to continue His mission (John 17:18).
- Component 2. Accept the gospel mission as your primary mission. In giving us the gospel mission, He gives us His purpose, presence, and power. (Acts 1:8, Mat. 28:18-20).
- Component 3. Abide in Christ through an ever-growing faith in Him.
- Component 4. Hold on during hardship

Conclusion

- OCF vision. “The military community positively impacted through Christ-like leaders”
- Paul: I appeal to you brethren by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice . . .” (Rom. 12:1-2)

Participant Guide | Foundation Session

Discussion Questions

1. What is the most thought-provoking concept you heard in this session?

2. From birth, Jesus marched straight to the cross. For 33 years every step of His walk was integrated through the Father's will. "I can do nothing on my own. As I hear I judge, and my judgement is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me." (Jn. 5:30) What would be the effect in my own life **IF** I walked intentionally in faith in:

- ... addressing the voids in my own life of faith such as Christ-like character, abiding knowledge of Christ, and sin?
- ... a backyard encounter with a neighbor?
- ... executing a mind-numbing task in the home?
- ... training children?
- ... struggling through a near impossible task or mission and at work?
- ... dealing with a difficult supervisor or subordinate?

3. Jesus previewed His gospel mission in Luke 4:18-19. He followed it three years later in His high priestly prayer saying first "Mission accomplished!" (John 17:4) and then stating

our mission (John 17:18). Read all three passages and then personalize and describe in your own words your gospel mission.

4. Which of the four components of faith-filled living mentioned in the presentation demand my personal attention?

5. Application. What actions will I take today to attend to that need? (1 or more)

- ___ Resolve now and take that critical step of: _____
- ___ Pray now that God will give me the desire to take that step
- ___ Meet with another participant and share my action for accountability and prayer
- ___ Continue with the IF Project and decide later
- ___ Other: _____



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FAITH PROJECT

FAITH & TRANSFORMATION

**View or download the
presentation for this session at
ocfusa.org/ifproject/personal**

Facilitator Guide for Integration of Faith in Personal Transformation

This second session of the IF Project, Faith in Personal Transformation, sets the condition for the final three: Profession, Family, and Community Relations. Therefore, it must follow the Foundation session in order of presentation. The final three sessions may be presented in any order desired.

The main point of this session is while believers are redeemed, we desperately need to be on a journey of growing up in Christ-likeness to serve Christ fruitfully. The key scripture passage is Ephesians 4:13, "...until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."

One caution: We all need to grow up whether we are the youngest believer or a seasoned elder. God will take us from where we are to where He calls us as we embrace Him through faith. Those in an early and immature walk of faith should be encouraged that the Spirit's desire is to complete the faith of those He calls. Those more mature in the faith can be encouraged that God has even more illumination and transformation in store for them as they press toward Him.

As in the Foundation session, be sensitive to those who come under deep conviction either for conversion or to fully surrender to the Lordship of Christ in life. You may have the opportunity to gently, wisely and respectfully minister to a seeker with the good news of Christ's salvation and/or His Lordship. That may be best done in a private setting.

Participant Guide | Personal Transformation Session

Notes from the Presentation

Our dilemma: Believers are redeemed, but we need to grow up into Christ likeness.

OCF's Mission is "OCF engages military leaders in Biblical fellowship and growth to equip them for Christ-like service at the intersection of faith, family, and profession." A continual growth in Christ-likeness through personal transformation is key to Christ-like service.

Our journey of transformation.

1. Say "yes" to the call of discipleship. Growing as a disciple includes:

Progressively learning who the Rabbi (Teacher) is, progressively knowing what the Rabbi (Teacher) knows, and progressively doing what the Rabbi (Teacher) does.

2. Saying "yes" to following Him is the beginning. Pursuing the high goal is where growth occurs. Jesus cited six marks of a true disciple (See the second discussion question for the list of six marks.) While no disciple rises to those standards initially, they do describe the ultimate level of faith and growth of Jesus' call.

3. The journey of discipleship requires perseverance.

4. How do I grow? What do I do? (Romans 12:1-2)

5. Some Indicators of Transformation

- Knowledge of God's wisdom and truth found in His word – and the growing application of it in life. (Heb. 5:14).
- Authentic fellowship. (Heb. 10:24-25)
- An abiding relationship with Christ through prayer, worship, and other means that produces the fruit of the Spirit within and fruitful gospel living. (John 15:1-11)
- Service (John 13:15)

6. Transformation is a lifetime journey with our supernaturally large, "... to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." (Ephesians 4:13)

Participant Guide | Personal Transformation Session

Discussion Questions

1. What is the most thought-provoking concept you heard in this session?

Jesus personally spoke of six marks of a disciple.

- Denial of self. "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." (Mat. 16:24 and Lu. 9:23)
- Radical stewardship. "So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple." (Lu. 14:33)
- Abiding in God's word. "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples." (Jn. 8:21)
- Bearing fruit. "By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples." (Jn. 15:8)
- Love for the brethren. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (Jn. 13:35)
- Life's transcendent priority. "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, and yes, his own life, he cannot be my disciple." (Lu. 14:26)

Jesus' disciples' early lives clearly didn't reflect the high standard of the six marks, but they grew in them over time.

2. What methods did God use to transform them?

3. What methods has God used in your life to mature you?

4. What do we know about how the early disciples cooperated with God in pursuing their call to discipleship? What attitudes, commitments, practices?

5. In what areas and in what ways can I move forward?

Referring to OCF's mission to "... equip leaders for Christ-like service at the intersection of faith, family, and profession.," the narrator stated, "Christ-like service springs from the Christ-likeness of the one serving."

6. Discuss where you have seen godly leadership on display. What character traits were evident in the effective leader's life?

Participant Guide | Personal Transformation Session

Discussion Questions

7. Where have you seen the Christian leader's lack of character diminish his or her witness and effectiveness?

8. Read the apostle John's affirmation of Gaius in 3 John 1-8. What is the evidence of Gaius' level of growth? What is the fruit of that growth?

What specific daily (or weekly) and measurable step will I begin immediately in that (those) area(s)? Who will I submit to for accountability in following through?

Application

Mark the one or two areas of personal transformation listed below that I must and will immediately commit to with God's grace.

- ☐ Growing and deepening knowledge of and affections for God
- ☐ Knowledge of God's wisdom and truth found in His word
- ☐ Authentic fellowship with believers
- ☐ Abiding relationship with Christ through prayer, worship, and other means
- ☐ Service that expresses the heart and compassion of Christ



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FAITH PROJECT

FAITH & FAMILY

**View or download the
presentation for this session at
ocfusa.org/ifproject/family**

Facilitator Guidance for Integration of Faith in Family

In this session we focus on two areas in which the integration of faith in family is applied as we are “on-mission” with God. Those areas are discipleship within the home (both in children and in adults) and to impact in surrounding community (in Christian witness and in service to others). The main point of this session is that family life is to be lived on Gospel mission both within the nuclear family and among those the family touches. The key passage is Genesis 1:26-30.

Participant Guide | Family Session

Notes from the Presentation

1. The original institution of family. God's institution and purpose was for man and woman to:

- unite as one
- have dominion over God's created beings
- be nourished by His creation
- be fruitful in their union

2. Then came the corruption of sin. But, God's purpose remains the same, and:

- Families today all bear the effects of the fall including strive, sin, shame, and death
- God has always used flawed families for His purposes

3. The Missional Family

Discipleship within the family. Children and Adults.

- Take the long view in raising children. You're not only raising children, you are ultimately raising parents, grandparents, and citizens. (Prov. 22:6, Eph. 6:4))
- Take advantage of resources and aids including: scripture, teachers and authors, on-line resources, OCF means, and children and youth ministries.

- Parents, however, bear the ultimate responsibility for discipling children, not the church, school, or youth group.
- Not only do children grow as disciples in the family but parents grow also.

The family impact in the community

- Marriage as a witness of Christ and the church. (Eph. 5:22)
- Family impact in outreach and service.
- Growth often occurs within the family through external family service.

"Our Marriage is a prism through which the world sees the Gospel and the example of how Christ loved the Church. It has to be our best act." (LTG, Ret. Bob Van Antwerp)

4. Thoughts and questions that arose from the presentation.

Participant Guide | Family Session

Discussion Questions

1. What is the most thought-provoking concept you heard in this session?

2. When you think of a family you have known who seems to live out their faith both inside and outside the home, what are some of their characteristics?

3. God's pre-fall institution of the family was for huge and wonderful purposes and although mankind suffers scars and corruption from the fall, God still used in history—and continues to use—marred families for kingdom purposes. How would you like to see Him using your family?

- What would be elements of your family mission statement to guide you in responding?
- What specific actions, by God's grace, could you do to be "on-mission" for Christ?

4. In raising children, we are keenly aware of the important needs of education, relationships with peers, athletics, and other mental, social, and physical needs. Yet, as parents, we bear the ultimate human responsibility to "train up a child

in the way he or she should go" (Pr. 22:6) In the group read together Deut. 11:18-25, Eph. 6:1-4, and 1 Th. 2:11. Then discuss what major themes of discipling children are found in these passages?

5. In the presentation, you heard the quote "What if God designed marriage to make us holy more than to make us happy?" That quote may be shocking to some, but it highlights the concept that while God desires harmony and joy in marriage, those things spring from each partner's growth in godliness through experiences found in family life. How have you found truth in that concept? What is your personal responsibility in making it more of a reality in your own life?

6. The presentation stated that a family on mission for Christ has a call to be God's vessel for impacting beyond the walls of the home. What are ways we can be that vessel?

Participant Guide | Family Session

Discussion Questions

Application

1. Before laying your head on the pillow this evening, take 15 minutes in prayer and discussion to develop and write a draft mission statement for your family. And then refine it after returning home and discuss it with the full family at a mealtime.
2. At the family discussion time, select and implement one or two practices you will implement to further the accomplishment of your mission



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FAITH PROJECT

FAITH & PROFESSION

**View or download the
presentation for this session at
ocfusa.org/ifproject/profession**

Facilitator Guidance for Integration of Faith in Profession

This session addresses how faith can be operative in our professional work and can honor God in multiple ways. It addresses the gospel nature of labor, a task given to mankind before the fall in the Garden of Eden. It highlights four broad areas in which faith is manifest in the military workplace.

The main point to be drawn from this session is that our faith can be integrated fully – and fruitfully – in our professional work and workplace. The key passage is Colossians 3:23-24, “Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.”

Participant Guide | Profession Session

Notes from the Presentation

1. God has powerfully used non-clergy, to include military men and women, for His divine purposes. Examples are:

- Deborah (Judges 4&5)
- Uriah (2 Sam. 11:6-21)
- Benaiah, Josheb, Eleazar, Shammah (2 Sam. 23:8-38)
- David
- Joshua Chamberlain

2. In His prayer to the Father before His crucifixion, Jesus expressed the Gospel mission for His followers. It was a continuation of the mission given to Jesus. (John: 17:18)

3. In God's sovereignty, we are not in our profession or location by chance.

4. Avenues if walking in faith within the profession:

- Find the sacred within the discipline you are engaged.
- Serve God through the manner and excellence of your service
- Influence the environment in which you serve
- Honor God by serving in obedience, even when it is hard

5. Thoughts and questions that arose from the presentation.

Participant Guide | Profession Session

Discussion Questions

1. What is the most thought-provoking concept you heard in this session?
2. Have you thought about your faith being integrated into your chosen profession before? What are some of the opportunities you may find to integrate faith? What are the challenges that seem to inhibit you?
3. Have you found yourself intentionally or inadvertently compartmentalizing your professional life? What do you see in the lives of the Biblical examples mentioned in the presentation?
4. Consider John 17:18 “As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.” Discuss the implications of God placing you in your profession as part of His plan? As you do, share your thoughts.
5. Look at the four suggested avenues of integrating your faith into your profession. Discuss ways they can be effectively implemented in the military culture.
 - Find the sacred within the secular discipline you are

engaged. Discuss the gospel aspects of your specialty within the profession.

- Through the manner and excellence in which you serve.
- Season the environment in which you serve.
- Through serving God in obedience, even when it is costly and hard.

Application

1. Highlight the one avenue of the four listed above that you most need to address personally.
2. Identify an action you will take on your first day returning to duty and share it with someone in your group for prayer and accountability.



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FAITH PROJECT

FAITH & COMMUNITY

**View or download the
presentation for this session at
ocfusa.org/ifproject/community**

Facilitator Guide for Integration of Faith in Community Relationships

This session addresses the critical role of Christ-followers in the community and in their personal relationships with others. It starts with the truth that our Triune God has been in perfect relationship through eternity and chose to invite His created beings into relationship with Him and with each other. Jesus modeled community and relationships in His earthly walk and sacrifice. The session then addresses living our faith in the community of believers, with other believers in intimate and serving relationships, in service and witness to others within the community, and as citizens in our form of government.

The main point to be captured through this session is Our faith is lived out in relationships both among believers and within the larger community. The key passage is 1 Thessalonians 2:7-8, "But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us."

Participant Guide | Community Relationships Session

Notes from the Presentation

1. Jesus majored in relationships. He lived it and demonstrated it.

- As part of the Trinity where the Father, Son, and Spirit have been eternally One in perfect harmony and relationship.
- At the age of 12 when presented at the Temple learned at the feet of teachers
- His first miracle at Cana where He met the host's logistics and hospitality challenges
- By investing deeply in others including His apostles and disciples
- At the Great Commission (Mat. 28:18-20) by saying He would be with us even to the end of the age
- In establishing the church which is a communal gathering of Christ-followers and agents

2. Living your faith in two community domains.

Within a body of believers

- Considerations in deciding where and how
- Doing life together in intimate and serving relationships (1 Thes. 2:7-8)

Within the local community

- Service and witness
- As citizens of the local, state, and federal government

3. Thoughts and questions that arose from the presentation

Participant Guide | Community Relationships Session

Discussion Questions

1. What is the most thought-provoking concept you heard in this session?
2. Consider Jesus' relational example from His role in the eternal Godhead to His formation of the Church as described in the presentation and summarized in presentation note #1 above. What does this imply about the value God places on relationships?
3. Believers are instructed to be a part of a body where we can worship God, grow spiritually, and encourage and serve one another. We learn and grow through a group, enjoy fellowship, prayer, meals, and share a common vision. In Hebrews 10:25 we are instructed to participate in corporate fellowship. What has been your experience in gathering in Biblical fellowship with others?
4. Jesus appointed twelve, "... so that they might be with him" (Mark 3:14) In 1 Thessalonians 2:7-8 we are shown by Paul what it means to love one another so much that while we share our faith, we also share our very lives. Consider and describe where you have experienced or observed such

relationships? How can those type relationships be fostered more widely?

5. At Jesus' first miracle we see Him in a purely social setting and yet He is an active participant and acts to assist in the festivities. As we seek to be Christ's influence in our communities, both within and beyond the Christian faith community, what are some practical ways that we can share Christ's love with others?

Participant Guide | Community Relationships Session

Discussion Questions

Application

What actions will I take today to actively integrate my faith into my relationships with individuals and the community around me? (1 or more)

___ Resolve now be an active member of a corporate body in worship and seek opportunities to serve. Identify a specific and immediate step toward action you will take.

___ Enter into or ___ initiate a biblical fellowship with other military Christians

___ Pray now that God will reveal to me the opportunities for fellowship and relationship in my home, church, neighborhood and community.

___ Actively live my faith in word and deed in all public settings so that by my actions through, Christ is honored. Identify a specific and immediate action you will take.

___ Other: _____